

What is claimed is:

1. A method for improving product inventory levels comprising:
 - obtaining inventory data related to product inventory for each of a plurality of products;
 - 5 calculating a statistical measure for each product from the inventory data for that product;
 - displaying the statistical measures for the products in an ordered arrangement according to priority;
 - selecting a product to investigate based upon the ordered arrangement;
 - 10 displaying a chart from the inventory data for the selected product, wherein the chart illustrates historical performance relating to the inventory data for the selected product over a period of time;
 - identifying an irregularity in the historical performance; and
 - using the irregularity to address inventory issues regarding the selected product.
2. The method as recited in claim 1, wherein the statistical measures are displayed in an ordered arrangement in a Pareto chart.
3. The method as recited in claim 1, wherein the historical chart comprises at least one of control chart, histogram, scatter plot, comparison chart, and relationship chart.
4. The method as recited in claim 1, wherein the inventory data comprises at least one of sales levels, inventory levels, replenishment frequency, replenishment quantity, and replenishment timing.
5. The method as recited in claim 1, wherein the statistical measure comprises at least one of average value, minimum value, maximum value, standard deviation, target deviation, percentage out-of-stock, control state, capability clearance, and target Z.
6. The method as recited in claim 1, wherein the inventory data comprises historical inventory data collected over a period of at least one month.

7. A system for identifying product inventory issues, comprising:

a processor;

a display unit in communication with the processor;

a memory in communication with the processor and adapted for storage of inventory

data relating to product inventory;

a program adapted to be executed by the processor, wherein the program is configured to display a historical chart on the display unit from inventory data relating to product inventory, wherein the historical chart illustrates historical performance relating to the inventory data for the product over a period of time, and wherein the program is further configured to calculate a statistical measure for each product from the inventory data for that product and display on the display unit the statistical measures for the products in an ordered arrangement according to priority.

8. The system as recited in claim 7, wherein the system comprises a handheld electronic device.

9. The system as recited in claim 7, wherein the historical chart comprises a control chart and wherein the ordered arrangement comprises a Pareto chart.

10. A method of identifying inventory control issues, comprising:

obtaining historical inventory data related to product inventory for a product;

displaying a historical chart indicating historical performance over time of the

historical inventory data;

identifying an irregularity in the historical performance; and

determining the cause of the irregularity.

11. The method as recited in claim 10, wherein the period of time comprises at least one month.

12. The method as recited in claim 10, wherein the historical chart comprises a control chart.

retrieving historical inventory data related to product inventory for a plurality of products, wherein the historical inventory data has been collected periodically over a period of time;

5

using the summary to identify potential inventory issues.

20. The method as recited in claim 19, wherein the information comprises at least one of product type, date, time, and cause of situation.

21. A method in a computer system for use in analyzing inventory issues, comprising:

displaying a priority chart illustrating an ordered arrangement of statistical measures for a plurality of products, wherein the statistical measures are related to inventory data for the products;

selecting at least one of the products; and

displaying a historical chart illustrating historical performance relating to the inventory data for the selected product over a period of time.

22. The user method as recited in claim 21, wherein the priority chart and historical chart are displayed at separate times on a computer display.